## TWINKL NEWS

#### **OLDEST PLANT EVER IS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE!**

- 9 This week, clever scientists have managed to grow
- 17 a narrow-leafed plant from seeds that are almost
- 20 thirty thousand years old!
- 30 Found last month in Russia, the old seeds are
- 39 thought to have been hidden inside burrows
- 46 by Arctic ground squirrels. By hiding them
- 55 underground, the squirrels had stopped the seeds
- 63 from being damaged by the frost. Scientists found
- 64 more than sixty thousand of them!
- 72 Working carefully, scientists found out that only
- 82 three of the seeds still had tiny plants inside. After
- 90 giving them food, light, warmth and oxygen,
- 99 scientists were amazingly able to grow the seeds
- 108 into adult plants. The plants' petals were a shape
- 111 that humans had never seen before.

# **Quick Questions**



1. Which word in the first sentence describes the leaves on the plant?



2. How many of the seeds had tiny plants inside? Tick **one**.

none of them	sixty	
three	all of them	



3. Why might the Arctic ground squirrels have hidden the seeds inside the burrows?



4. This experiment was a success. What might scientists do now?





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- into adult plants. The plants' petals were a shape
- that humans had never seen before.

## **Answers**



1. Which word in the first sentence describes the leaves on the plant?

Accept: narrow



2. How many of the seeds had tiny plants inside? Tick one.

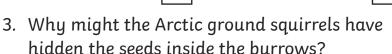
none of them

sixty	

three

	1
~	
•	

all of them



Accept answers which discuss that squirrels may have intended to eat the seeds, such as: I think that the squirrels hid the seeds so that they could eat them at a later date.



4. This experiment was a success. What might scientists do now?



Accept any answers which give a sensible prediction relating to bringing extinct species back to life or trying to find more viable seeds, such as: I think that scientists will look for more old seeds and grow them into plants.



